

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action (“Office Action”) mailed July 12, 2006. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-21 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 7, 10, 16-18 and 21 and objects to Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, 19 and 20. Applicant amends Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13, 17, and 20; and adds new Claims 22-24. Applicant does not admit that any amendments are necessary due to any cited art or rejections. Applicant cancels claims 2, 11, and 18-19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 7, 10, 16-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 07-321603 issued to Ruitenburg (“*Ruitenburg*”) in view of European Patent No. 0 883 237 A1 issued to Nash (“*Nash*”).

The Examiner objects to Claims 2-6, 8-9, 11-15, 19 and 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant amends Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13, 17, and 20 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant cancels claims 2, 11, and 18-19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Notwithstanding these amendments, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the *Ruitenburg-Nash* combination and reserves the right to pursue the rejected claims through one or more continuation applications.

CONCLUSION

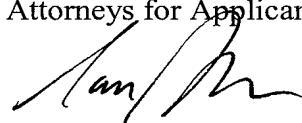
Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this Application, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at (214) 953-6581 at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$600.00 additional claim fee and to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 12, 2006

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